

# LASSO THE WEST

## A NEBRASKA/WYOMING EXPERIENCE - 2022 TAP DANCE

### Arrival Day- Denver

Relax, enjoy a delicious dinner, meet your group mates, and get ready for your exciting tour of western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming starting tomorrow morning.

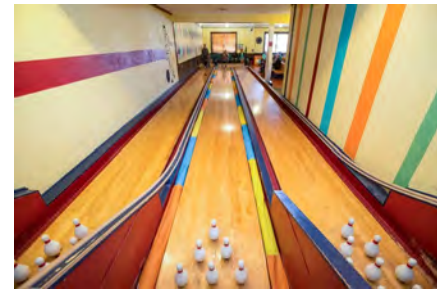
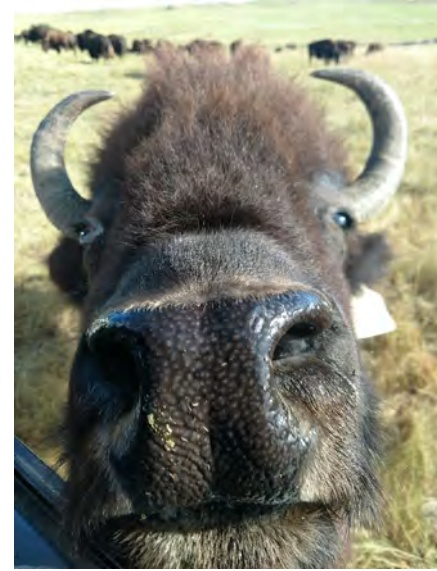
### Day 1- Nebraska

After breakfast in Denver, depart for Kimball where your first stop will be **Prairie Adventures at EJE Ranch**. While there learn more about the High Plains Region's short grass prairie on a 4th generation cow/calf operation and venture onto the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem first-hand. Lunch is in nearby **Potter Sundry**, home to the famous Tin Roof Sundae, a mixture of vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts. While in this up-and-coming group destination, take a step back in time and try your hand at a unique form of bowling known as duckpin bowling at the three-lane **Potter Duckpin Bowling Alley**. Next you will head north along the **Fossil Freeway to Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company**, north of Kimball. This working ranch raises grass fed bison and offers the unique opportunity to learn more about these majestic animals and how they exist and thrive in western Nebraska's High Plains region. Lucky members of your group might be asked to go into the bison pasture to bring the herd closer to everyone. Dinner and overnight tonight are in Gering.

### Day 2- Nebraska

After breakfast in Gering, your first stop this morning will be at **Chimney Rock National Historic Site** in Bayard. Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Oregon and Mormon trails, and early pioneers saw this towering feature for days on the open horizon alerting them to the forthcoming change in landscape. The renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories from these pioneers and others as they continued their westward migration. Now you will head back to Gering to explore the **Wildcat Hills Nature Center** which boasts excellent displays highlighting the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills south of Gering. Lunch consists of an enjoyable craft brewing experience and delicious hand-made, wood fired Neapolitan style pizzas at **Flyover Brewing Company** in Scottsbluff. Gering also is home to **Scotts Bluff National Monument**. This natural rock formation was a prominent landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers who used it as a guide westward. At 800 feet above the North Platte River, a drive to the summit gives a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts that are still visible at the base. A gift shop and museum in the recently renovated visitor center show the historical importance of the trail and the area's colorful history.

The final stop today is **Legacy of the Plains** where you learn more about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. The museum focuses on the archeology of Native American and Westward Expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the development of rural communities, the diversity of culture on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in the semi-arid environment. Afterward, an amazing **Chuckwagon dinner** will be served to you as you watch the sun set over the summit of Scotts Bluff and get a full view of western Nebraska's wide open and starry night skies.



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### Day3- Nebraska/Wyoming

After breakfast in Gering, you will head out to the remote reaches of western Nebraska to **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument**, south of Harrison. This internationally recognized fossil site displays mammal bones from the Miocene Epoch. A modern visitor facility features exhibits highlighting the fossils found on the neighboring Agate Springs Ranch and the impressive collection of Native American artifacts gifted to James Cook by Red Cloud and others. Take a behind-the-scenes peek at valuable artifacts not normally on display. The last stop in western Nebraska is the historic **Fort Robinson State Historic Park** near Crawford. Nestled within the scenic Pine Ridge, this state parks offers a wide variety of fun activities, including historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, scenic overviews, living history activities, and opportunities to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. Lunch will be served at the park before your departure to explore eastern Wyoming.

Upon entering Eastern Wyoming you will make your way north to **Devils Tower National Monument**, (America's first national monument). During your visit to Devil's Tower you can take in the spectacular views, photograph the prairie wildlife, visit the visitor's center and enjoy a 1.3 mile walk around the base of the tower. Dinner will be served at **Devil's Tower Gulch Restaurant** overlooking Devil's Tower National Monument. Following dinner come stay the night in **Gillette, WY** and when you travel to the edge of the West, you expect the unexpected. Gillette, WY has been coined the **Energy Capital of the Nation**, where you'll find much more than minerals beneath the surface. In this wild country, we engrain the natural paradise of Wyoming with our own uncommon flavor for a surprisingly authentic experience.

### Day 4- Wyoming

This morning Enjoy a cowboy breakfast at the **Stagecoach** restaurant. After Breakfast make a stop by **Campbell County History Museum** which is named the Rockpile Museum. At the museum you will find displays that depict energy, railroad, educational and other important periods of development of Campbell County. After the tour you will head south through the **Powder River Basin**. The Powder River Basin is home to 12 working Coal Mines. Coal mining in Campbell County has been happening for over 100 years and is still going strong today, providing around 35% of the Nations coal. During this trip south you will also be able to spot **Pronghorn Antelope**. Our final stop in Campbell County will be **The Durham Bison Ranch** Tour where you can adventure through time and experience one of the world's largest and oldest working bison ranches. With around 3,000 bison currently on 55,000 acres, Durham Ranch has been actively engaged in the raising of bison since the mid-1960s. Lunch will be in Wright, WY where you can try a **bison burger** (this bison is from the Durham Ranch) and fries at **Hank's Roadside Café**

After lunch make your way to Casper where our first stop will be at that the **The National Historical Trails Interpretive Center**. During your visit, you will be able to explore exhibits related to names that are truly legendary in Western history, and on the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express Trails. Through these hands-on exhibits, you will capture the real-life drama that over 400,000 pioneers experienced as they followed these trails between 1841 and 1868. You will then visit **Gruner Brother's Brewing** where their beer is as outstanding as their view of Casper. While their try your hand at making a great souvenir from Casper as **Ugly Bug Fly Shop** comes and shares about fly-fishing while you tie your very own fly! After you check in at the hotel, dinner will be in downtown Casper at the **Wyoming Rib and Chop House**.



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### Day 5- Wyoming

After breakfast you will continue to head West following the routes of many of the early pioneers. The first stop will be at **Independence Rock**, known as the registry of the desert and a significant point on the Oregon Trail. Then you will head to **Martin's Cove**, a site on the Mormon Trail and home to a visitor center that shares about the Martin handcart company. Lunch in Rawlins is at **Buck's Sports Grill** with exactly the burgers, sandwiches, and salads you'd expect at a good diner. Following lunch, visit **Carbon County Museum**, which preserves through 30,000 artifacts the rich history and heritage of the Carbon County communities. Next stop, **Wyoming Frontier Prison** which was built around the turn of the century and housed prisoners until the new state prison was completed in 1981. Guided tours are available but you cannot leave any of your fellow guests behind bars.

Depart for Saratoga and the **Saratoga Hot Springs Resort**, a fountain of health. The resort's spa is the original State Bath House. After check-in, you can set out for dinner downtown, an easy walk or a quick bicycle ride away. There are many eateries to choose from in Saratoga, including the experience of fine dining at **Bella's Bistro**, an authentic Prime Rib dinner at the **Wolf Hotel**, or pair one of over a hundred selections of whiskey with the perfect meal at **Firewater Public House**. Return to the resort for an evening of soaking and stargazing at the Resort's outdoor swimming and hot pools.

### Day 6- Wyoming

After breakfast at the Resort head downtown for a tour along Saratoga's bridge street where Saratoga holds on to its old western charm and heritage. You will see **The Wolf Hotel** which was built in 1893 and still welcomes guests. Then discover the **Hobo Hot Springs**, another natural mineral pool that welcomes visitors for a relaxing soak in the hot pools 24-hours a day and admission is free.

Next you will drive over to the cities of **Riverside and Encampment**, a 20-mile journey. Located at the base of the Sierra Madre mountains, the communities are the gateway to the **Medicine Bow National Forest** on the South end of Carbon County. While there you will check out the **Grand Encampment Museum**, which preserves history with more than a dozen historical buildings filled with artifacts of the Encampment valley representing the area's agricultural, mining and timber history. You will then enjoy lunch at the **Bear Trap Café**.

After lunch sit back and enjoy the beautiful drive over the **Snowy Range Scenic Byway** as you head to Laramie to visit the **Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site**. Celebrating its 150th anniversary, this is the only prison to have held Butch Cassidy along with many other great figures from the west. You will then take some time to explore **downtown Laramie**, visiting some of the great shops, including **the Range**. Dinner tonight will be at the **Bunkhouse Bar & Grill**, a local favorite with great western flair. You then make your way to Cheyenne for the night.



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### Day 7 Wyoming

Following breakfast you will visit the **Cheyenne Depot Museum**, the heart of Cheyenne's history, then the **Wyoming State Capitol**, including the Historic Supreme Court Chamber where the Wyoming State Constitution was signed making Wyoming the first state to grant Wyoming the right to vote, along with all other rights granted to men at the time. Our final stop will be the **Old West Museum** located on the grounds of Cheyenne Frontiers Days. Lunch will be at the **Terry Bison Ranch** before making your way to Denver for an early evening departure.



### Nebraska Tourism Commission

Micheal Collins  
Group Tour Manager  
402-432-1384  
Micheal.Collins@nebraska.gov  
www.visitnebraska.com/group\_travel



### Campbell County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Stephanie Murray  
Community Engagement Manager  
307-686-0040  
stephanie@visitgillettewright.com  
www.visitgillettewright.com

### Carbon County Visitors Council

Leslie Jefferson  
CEO  
307-324-3020  
direction@wyomingcarboncounty.com  
www.WyomingCarbonCounty.com

### Wyoming Office of Tourism

Amy Larsen  
Industry Relations Manager  
307-214-3217  
amy.larsen@wyo.gov  
www.travelwyoming.com/group-travel

